UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1997/298
10 April 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1997 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVES OF KAZAKSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, TAJIKISTAN AND UZBEKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a joint statement issued by the Consultative Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan concerning a settlement of the situation in Tajikistan and Afghanistan, adopted in Dushanbe on 5 April 1997 (see annex).

We should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. ARYSTANBEKOVA
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Kazakstan
to the United Nations

(Signed) Z. ESHMAMBETOVA
Permanent Representative of
the Kyrgyz Republic to the
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(Signed) S. LAVROV
Permanent Representative of
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(Signed) R. ALIMOV
Permanent Representative of
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(Signed) A. VOHIDOV
Acting Permanent Representative
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Annex

Joint statement adopted in Dushanbe on 5 April 1997 by the Consultative Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, meeting in Dushanbe on 5 April 1997, discussed the current state and prospects for the further development of bilateral and multilateral relations among the countries that took in that meeting, and also held an exchange of views on various aspects of a political settlement of the inter-Tajik conflict.

The participants in the meeting noted that traditional economic, humanitarian and other ties were conducive to the further development of effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation. In this regard, they underscored the importance of integration and closer relations within the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the Single Economic Area of the Central Asian Countries.

The participants in the meeting expressed their support for the efforts of the leaders of Tajikistan and the United Tajik Opposition to continue to stabilize the situation in the Republic and achieve national accord. Noting the significant progress that has recently been made in the inter-Tajik talks being held under United Nations auspices, they emphasized the need for the strict implementation by the Tajik parties of the agreements that have been reached and for continued progress in the negotiations. In this regard, they noted the importance of constructive and effective work by the delegations of the Tajik parties at the forthcoming round of talks in Tehran.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs welcomed the proposal to hold a meeting in Moscow between the President of Tajikistan and the leader of the United Tajik Opposition for the signing of a final general agreement on peace and national accord in Tajikistan.

In the spirit of the joint statement on Tajikistan adopted on 28 March 1997 at a meeting of the CIS Council of Heads of State (see S/1997/268, annex IV), the participants in the meeting stressed that their countries intended to continue to promote in every way possible a peaceful settlement of the Tajik conflict and provide economic and humanitarian assistance to Tajikistan.

They reaffirmed their readiness to contribute to the practical implementation of inter-Tajik agreements on a whole series of military issues. They agreed to speed up the joint elaboration of questions relating to the use for this purpose of the Collective Peacekeeping Forces and a contingent of border troops from CIS countries in Tajikistan.

In their consideration of issues relating to a Tajik settlement, the participants in the meeting expressed their concern at the continuing armed confrontation in Afghanistan and the threat of a further escalation of the

inter-Afghan conflict. They reaffirmed the position of their States in favour of an immediate cessation of hostilities, the conflicting sides' search for ways to reach agreement, and the implementation of United Nations resolutions on Afghanistan. The participants in the meeting declared their countries' readiness to continue to cooperate closely in the interest of safeguarding the external borders of Commonwealth States, and called upon interested countries to take active measures to promote a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

(Signed) K. K. TOKAEV
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Kazakstan

(Signed) B. N. PASTUKHOV
First Deputy Minister for
Foreign Affairs of the
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(Signed) R. I. OTUNBAEV
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(Signed) T. N. NAZAROV
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